The Touch-Stone of

MONY and COMMERCE:

Or an Expedient

For increase of *Trade*, *Mony*, and *Shiping* In *England*.

Shewing also how the Arrears of the *Army*, and other Publique Debts, may be forthwith Satisfied, without laying more Impositions upon the People, or Burthen on Trade.

Together with

CVSTOME and *EXCISE REGVLATED*.

Wherein is manifest the Destruction of Trade, by its Irregular mannagement at present: with means to prevent the like Inconvenience for time to come.

By *S. E.* A Lover of his Country.

LONDON.

Printed at the Authors Charge, for his Countries good: and are to be sold at the *Turks Head* in *Corn-hill*, near the *Royall Exchange*. 1653

~~[illegible] 13~~
1509/3186.

The Touch-Stone of

MONY and COMMERCE:

Or an Expedient

For increase of *Trade*, *Mony*, and *Shiping* In *England*.

Shewing also how the Arrears of the *Army*, and other Publique Debts, may be forthwith Satisfied, without laying more Impositions upon the People, or Burthen on Trade.

Together with

CVSTOME and *EXCISE REGVLATED*.

Wherein is manifest the Destruction of Trade, by its Irregular management at present: with means to prevent the like Inconvenience for time to come.

By *S. E.* A Lover of his Country.

LONDON.

Printed at the Authors Charge, for his Countries good: and are to be sold at the *Turks Head* in *Corn-hill*, neer the *Royall Exchange*. 1653

To the Supream Authority,

the ~~Parliament~~ of the *Common-wealth* of

ENGLAND.

Right Honourable,

I *Know you cannot be Ignorant of the (at present) Deplorable Estate of* England, *whose former Plenty, and Freedome, of Commerce, hath sounded as Ecchoes of Tryumph to all Nations round about her: and in despite of envy or their Emulating her happiness, made her Trade the Worlds* Exchange: *untill of late years (for such is her unhappiness) her Millions of plenty are grown to complaints, and such her Commerce into a Languishing consumption: so universally dispersed that even the greatest of her Gentry complain for want of Mony, whilst their Tenants groane under the burthen of Contribution and Taxes; The Marchant and Mariner, too late sorrowing for their loss of no less then* 1300 *Sail of Ships since the Warr with* Spain, *whereof many richly laden; to the ruine of their Owners and Proprietors; when others yet Trading, and paying Excise, with other great Duties, complain more for the Intollerable burthen by the manner of Collecting it, then the duty it self: the laws of Excise being in truth contrived (as if purposely) to maintain a numerous rabble of Excise-men, the most useless and unprofitable members in a Common-wealth: who making themselves gainers by the ruine of Trade, go away with the greatest share of the revennue, whilst the private Souldier for want of pay is brought to a kind of beggarry; being driven to take upon trust, (where they can have it,)*

the very meat they eat; and considering their penni-worths to pay dear for the Interest. All which together with the complaints of many, Thousands poor Families distressed throughout the Nation, for want of Trade, being considered, I hope will so work upon your spirits, (now the Lord hath again, I presume beyond your own Expectations brought you together) that you will not rest till you have Improved this opportunity once more put into your hands of doing good for your Country, to which end you are called: wherein the Lord will undoubtedly own you, and those yet unborn be Obliged to Honour your remembrance.

And apprehending that amongst other waighty affaires that of raising Monies for time to come, for supply of the Army, and Navy of the Common-wealth, by the most equitable and propereſt waies, not burthensome to the Nation, with the increase of Trade, Mony, and Shiping, (all so much wanting in England) *are not the least of Importance: and having had the perusal of the several reports, and proposals made this* Parliament *and* Committee *of Inspection, with all others that have written in reference thereunto; I have upon serious consideration substracted the most suitable and (as I apprehend) propereſt collections from the whole, and have taken liberty to publish it, with some additions of my own observations in* England, *and* Experience *in Forrain parts: which, when receiving the Honour of your debate, will I hope merrit the favour of your good likeing, and the Authour have his expected reward, by being an Instrument of promoting the good and welfare of his Country.*

S E.

The Toutch-stone of MONY and COMMERCE.

AMongst the diversity of Mettalls which God the Creator hath shut up in the concave Closet of the Earth; none is accounted more Excellent than Gold, and Silver; which since it became in use amongst men, may properly be termed the Universall measure of all things, and the Staple of Commerce, which in All Ages, and Nations, where it goes drives the Wheel of Trade and Succes. I shall therefore (since the World gives it that Esteem) begin with its Standard as in vallew here amongst us.

The Allay, or standard of England (I mean the Intrinsical vallew of Plate) being inferiour to none, if not the best and purest of *Europe*, and the large proportion in waight allowed to our pound *Sterling*, gives it the greater vallue in Forrain parts, and is therefore by them the more covetted: so that its par or vallue runing higher in the North-East parts of the World then our Native Commodities; England is by that means made but the *Carravan* for its transportation from the South-West parts thither; and by reason of the Warr with *Spain*, (a place that vended much of *Englis*h manufactures) together with the Obstruction by us given, the *Spanish West-India-Fleet* which occasioned Plate to run at a higher vallue there; *England* hath of late years been prevented of Importing Plate as Formerly; and her exports thereof greater by reason of the loss of her

The English Standard better then Forrain.

Plate decreased and the reason why.

Southern Trade, from whence her Marchants usually sent Commodities for *Holland* and other Northern Countries of the production of English goods, which now are bought from the *Dutch* and others their Neighbours with English Coyn: who by that means are become almost Masters, both of our Mony and Trade, which will prove of dangerous consequence to England, if not timely prevented.

Plate Melted down.

Another reason of the Decrease of Plate, is by the abundance thereof melted down, and converted to the making of Silver and Gold Lace, Buttons, and the like, in which un-necessary superfluity in the three Nations, of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, is wasted no less then two hundred Thousand pounds *Sterling* Yearly, by a very good estimate of knowing persons dealing therein.

By Gold-smiths.

Also there is a great demunition of the Coyne of *England*, by converting it into Tankards, Bowls, and other Vessels of Plate, which in a super-abounding measure we dayly see in *Gold-Smiths Shops*, and *Gentlemen* and *Citizens Houses*: far exceeding the Estates and Fortunes of most of them, which though convenient for private uses, yet tends to the decrease of Monyes, and the Publique Stock of the Nation, and consequently to the decay of Trade: which is contained in a proposal late presented the Committee of *Safety* by one Mr. *Marshall*, unto whom I give this remembrance, though I know not the Author.

Mr Marshalls Proposals.

Gold and Silver exported, how to be prevented.

And having I hope sufficiently laid down the reasons of the decrease, and exportation of *English Coyn*, which is too apparent in the scarcety of Gold, but of late Years more frequently passing then Silver; and by the few half Crowns left in comparison of the aboundance

Coyned

Coyned since the Warr in *England*, (they being the most profitable to be exported, or melted down, as being least worn, and waying more proportionably then smaler Coyn, from the Mint, by so much as the labour of Coynage is less:) I now propose the means for encrease thereof, with advance to Trade and the Publique Revennue.

That from hence forward the *English Shilling* may contain in wait but 11*d*, and the Silver to be a penny courser: so that 10*d* in vallue according to the present Standard may futurely be allowed taken and reputed for 12*d Sterling*, and so be Stamped; and the standard fixed according to that vallue: all other Coyn runing alike in proportion. *The English shillings to be made less.*

That the Mint in *London*, with others to be erected in the most proper places of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, may be set going; and all Monyes in the States hands above the vallue of groats (the smaler being worn and not considerable to return a profit,) may be forthwith new Coyned according to that standard: and by degrees calling in the old Coyn and paying the owners again with new, (they allowing for all Clypt, and Broken,) all the Mony in *England* will (without obstruction of Trade) be new Coyned into more necessary peeces as; parts into half Crowns, and the other; into Shillings, and Six pences, whereof at present there is to great a proportion, as being the more troblesome in counting; The *Spaniard* being so expert in this manner of new Coyning his Mony, that I have known all the Brass Mony of his Kingdome (which cannot be less in number of peeces then 6 times the *Sterling Mony* in *England*,) new Coyned in two moneths time, which I here intimate to shew the facility *The Mint to be set going, and all Mony new Coyned.*

of

of that, which some perhaps may think to be a work of great difficulty. But not approving of that cheat in *Spain*, I return to prevent the Cheats that some may also suggest will be practised in *England*, by false Coyning, though for my own part, I apprehend need not be feared.

To prevent cheats in false Coynage.

That it may be ordered upon some penalty that all Mony within *London* and lines of *Communication* may be brought into the *Guild-Hall*, or some other safe place within the *City*: Or otherwise into some treasury to be appointed in every Parish there to remain as in Banck until new Mony be given in Exchange: so that all sums considerable (contracted for by Marchants or others) may be aswell paid from one to another in Banck, as if actually told and delivered: the experience whereof we find continually practised in *Holland*, *Genoway*, and amongst other Bankers, who find both ease and profit thereby, and I think would be also of great use in *England*, if here erected. And for all petty sums for pocket use, it will presently be supplyed by the Moneyes first to be issued out of the Mint. The like manner of bringing their Monies into a Treasury may be observed in other *Cities* and places of Commerce; and no Monies be suffered to pass in payments but of the new Coyn. Provided that any sum of Money payable at a day certain by persons either of City or Country, if delivered into the next Bank or Treasury, may be held paid, and Credit given for so much to the person that of right ought to have it. And since I have hinted at a Bank, I shall give the manner of it: I suppose not known to all persons, but worth observation to some.

Monies to be brought into Banck.

A Bank is a Certain number of sufficient men of Credit and Estates joyned together in a Bank, as it were

to for

for keeping several mens Cash in one Treasury; and letting out imaginary Mony at Interest, for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, or 3 *per Cent.* to Trades-men, or others that agree with them for the same: and making payment thereof by assignation, passing each mans account from one to another; yet paying no monies: in so much, that if a Marchant or other person want Mony: If he have or can but procure credit in Bank, he may make as good payment by assignment in Bank without it. As for Example, the said Marchant buyes Cloath of a Cloathier for 100 *lb.* value more or less, and goes with him to the Bank; where he is debtor for so much monies as he takes up; and the Clothier is made Creditor for so much as he sold his goods for to the said Marchant: Then such Clothier having occasion to pay Mony to a Stapler or Wool-monger for Wool bought, the said Clothier is made Debtor, and the Wool-monger Creditor upon account: the said Wool-monger buys Wool of a Country Farmer, for so much Mony, more or less: the Wool-monger is made Debtor, and the Farmer Creditor: the Farmer must pay Rent to his Landlord, and is likewise made Debtor, and his Landlord Creditor: the said Landlord for his occasions buys good of a Mercer, Grocer, Vintner, or the like, or from all: then he is made Debtor, and such Mercer or other Trades-man Creditor: then peradventure such Mercer or other Trads-man buyes goods from the same Marchants that took up the first Credit in Bank, and stands yet Debtor there, but upon sale of his goods to the Mercer, or other Trads-man both clears their accounts in Bank: and so in all Trads as occasion presents, which is practised in many places as aforesaid, and is of very great use and advantadge to Trade; the payment made therein

The nature of a Bank.

being generally esteemed better by ½ *per Cent.* then out of Bank, as preventing troble and the receiving Clipt or bad Mony: but being already published at large in a Book writen by Mr. *Lamb*, who is worthy of incouragement therein: I shall not stay longer hereon, but return to my purpose.

Mr Lambs description thereof.

That to prevent the melting down of any Coyn, by *Gold-Smiths* or others, to the prejudice of the State and decrease of Monies: An Impossition of 12*d* upon every ounce of Silver, and the like proportionably upon Gold, may be laid upon all Plate already wrought, and to be wrought into any form for use, other then the Mint, aswell in the hands of *Gold-Smiths* as other persons whatsoever: and an Office to be appointed in *London*, and each respective County of *England* for the same to be paid, upon penalty of forfeiture; and to receive in testimony thereof some stamp of the Office, and accordingly to be regestred. Alwaies provided, that such as will bring in wrought Plate to the Mint, may be allowed to Coyn it upon like terms as at present.

To prevent the melting down of Plate.

That all Gold may be Coyned alike in proportion, regard being had to its current value, which now runs higher then Silver by 1*sh* in the pound: so that out of every 20*sh* peece of Gold will be taken the waight of 1*sh* 4*d*. to make its parrity or quallity equal with that Standard.

New Coynage of Gold.

That the superfluous wearing of Silver, and Gold Lace, Buttons, &c. may be prevented by good example given of some other more comly Trimming to be worn at Court; or by a direct prohibition against it, as is at present in *France*: Or otherwise by laying an Impossition of 1*sh* 6*d* on the ounce to be paid by the

To prevent the waring of Silver Lace.

maker thereof; or by laying a yearly Fine or duty on the persons wearing it, of the quallity of an Esq; or upwards 1 *ol.* each: the Gentleman 5*l.* and all of a meaner quallity 3*l. per Annum* each: which I presume will bring in a Considerable revennue, or else cause the same to be held contemptible and not worn: either of which will prove usefull to the Publique good, and prevent such superfluous extravigancies.

Which being done, I doubt not but in a short time the want and scarcety both of Gold and Silver, will be found so plentifull in *England*, that our lost Trade will again revive, and no Commodity be held the dearer for this moderate advance of Monies; which is not here introduced to incourage the Supream Authority of *England* to Immitate our Neighbours the *Hollander*, and other States and Princes, whose usuall custome is to advance their Monies in their payments, and to decry them in their receipts; which though some account to be good State Pollicy, yet I am bold to call it great oppression, when no excuse can be pleaded other then State Intereſt; but otherwise, if in pollicy, done either to keep a Competency, or to supply a scarcity of Monies in a Kingdome or Common-wealth. As for instance, if the State of *England* had put the 20*sh.* peece of Gold higher in value but 6*d.* when it first began to rise it self, and be drawn away it would have stopt that currant, and perhaps also have prevented Forrain Nations of covetting our Silver, by keeping them Ignorant of its worth and value; and I wish heartily that such timely care were taken in the preventing other Inconveniences of as great Consequence by inspecting the proceedings of Forrain Princes, and States, touching Trade and Commerce, (wherein we are as much con-

Of the increase of Money, and Trade.

The manner of Inhancing Monies in Holland.

That the Export of Gold, and Silver might have been better prevented formerly.

erned as any,) that we might not ſuffer our ſelves to be out-witted, and by degrees Courted out of all Trade, as we have from our Gold and Silver, for which the gapp being now opened ſo wide, and the ſcarcity of Gold by degrees riſing a diſparrity from its ſtanding value, to above 2*s*. in every 20*s*. and our Silver by being here (as I may properly ſay) bought at ſo low a rate, is found a better Commodity in Forrain parts than our Native Manufacture, and Commodities: ſo that the ſtream is even grown to an inundation and drowning of all Trade, for want of ſuch timely prevention.

This deſign is more to reconcile the value of Mony and Trade, then for a Revennue.

And truly I apply this my deſign of advancing Monies more principally, as a means to reconcile the preſent diſparrity of the Coyn and Trade of *England*, with the currant Commerce, of Forrain parts, then ſingly to advance the States revenue; though I confeſs, finding the ſame will prove ſo advantagious both to State and Common good, I am the more incouraged hereunto, and am glad to be ſerviceable to both; conceiving the States advantage thereby cannot be leſs then 5 Millions, beſides the eaſe to the Common-wealth, of paying the like ſum in contribution, and other Taxes; and no man have the leſs in eſteem or vallue, but all will be inriched again by Trade, that will revive by the return of Treaſure: which the *Dutch* having more plentifull in reallity then *England*: beſides being ſupplyed imaginary, upon occaſion by the help of their Banks, is the principal reaſon they eat us out of Trade, and by no better way then this to be prevented. Then will all *Engliſh* Traders have vent for their Commodities, and the Farmer have Mony to pay his Landlord; Cloathing and other Manufacturies will find a market, and be encouraged: the Souldier have his pay, and the Common-

The benefit to the State, and Common-wealth.

wealth in general again have Trade, all being now at a ſtand for want of Mony the Uſurer only excepted, whoſe ungodly gain is become the greater. So that if it ſhould be admitted, the ſcope of this deſigne were upon no other account but to ſatisfy the Immergencies of State, (which I hope I have given ſufficient reaſons of Contradiction) it cannot be more juſtly and equitably impoſed then upon the greateſt Mony-mongers, who of all Men have born the leaſt Share of Burthen in *England*, during the late Wars, and juſtly deſerves this remembrance.

Uſurers have born the leaſt ſhare of Taxes.

And referring the ingenious Reades many that deſires to enquire further into the myſtery and practices of Forrain States concerning riſing and falling their monies to the ſeverall and differing Authors that have written more at large thereupon, I conclude this ſubject, with this my obſervation, That whilſt we put ſo high an eſteem upon Forraign goods, and continue our Coyn at the ſame vallue, it will be ſtill drawn away, and our Exports become the leſs, which is wholly Incompliant with the Common good of *England*, whose poor are imployed, Trade increaſed, and wealth brought in by ſo much the more, as the current of her Exports exceed her Imports: which Stream hath run backward ever ſince the *Spaniſh War*; which War more duly deſerves the daily remembrance of the Supream Authority of *England*, then *Calais* did to the Kings of *France*, whileſt it Continued under the *Engliſh* Scepter.

The reaſon why Plate is drawn away.

Having done with the Subject of Mony: I come now to ſpeak of Commerce and Shipping, the other Wheel of Trade, Driven by *Marchants*; but ſo laden with Impoſitions, and more by the abuſes in col-

Of Shiping and Commerce.

lecting it, as if *Marchants* (the moſt honourable profeſſion and principal Fountain, from whoſe Induſtrious ſtreams floweth in the riches of a Common-wealth) were guilty of ſome high crimination, and not deſerving the leaſt incouragement. And ſince I have ſubſtracted the principal parts of this compoſure from other Authors whom I deſire not to rob of the thanks due unto them for ſo Publique a merrit; I have and ſhall give each a due remembrance, and come now to

Mr Hawkins his Propoſal touching Exciſe.

Mr Hawkins, the ſubſtance of whoſe Propoſal made to this *Parliament* and *Committee* of Inſpection, was for the taking away of Contribution, with Cuſtome and Exciſe upon all goods Imported or Exported in *Engliſh bottoms*: and that in conſideration thereof, and for a Revennue to the State, an Impoſition ſhould be laid only upon *Wine*, *Beer*, and *Tobaccho*, throughout *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*; to be Collected by Commiſſioners, to be appointed in every County, in manner following.

That every *Vintner*, *Strong-water-ſeller*, *Inn-keeper*, *Ale houſe*, and *Coffee-ſeller*, in the three Nations ſhould yearly compound for his drauſt of any ſuch Liquors and Drinks: and to pay quarterly the ſum to be agreed with the ſaid Commiſſioners.

That all private Families whatſoever ſhould pay yearly for the Drink ſpent in their Houſes, according to the rates and qualifications following.

All Gentlemen of 1000*lb. per Annum*, or upwards, or 10000*lb.* perſonal Eſtate; or a *Marchant* for themſelves, and all in their Families *per Head*. } 8 or 10*s.*

All

All others of 500*lb. per Annum*, or upwards, or 500*lb* personal Estate, to pay for all in their Families *per Head.* } 6 or 8*s*

All those of 100*lb per Annum*, or 500*lb* personal Estate, to pay for themselves and all in their Families *per Head.* } 4 or 6*s*

All worth 100*lb*, and those in their Families to pay *per Head.* } 2 or 4*s*

All worth 20*lb* Estate, and their Families, excepting all Children under, 12 years of age to pay *per Head.* } 0 or 1*s*

And all Persons of a lower Estate to go free.

That all persons that take *Tobaccho* by the Pipe, sneezing, or Chewing, to pay yearly as follow.

All Lords and persons of Dignity, and their Ladies to pay yearly each.	3*l*
Knights and their Ladies, each.	2*l*
Esquiers and their Wives, each.	1*l*
Gentlemen and their Wives, each.	10*s*
Yoewmen and their Wives, each.	5*s*
Handicraft men and their Wives, each.	2*s*
Labourours and their Wives, each.	1*s*
All Servants and Children above 12 years, old.	1*s*

The Calculation made of the Revennue that will be brought in by the Publique draft of *Wine*, *Beer*, and other Drinks in the three Nations, is a Million yearly.

By the rates set upon all private Families, for themselves, and those they have in Family, is computed will amount yearly to two Millions.

Besides, for the Takers of *Tobaccho*, which is uncertain till setled, and therefore not estimated. Which sum of three *M*illions is more then was ever yet Collected

cted by Custome, Excise, and Contribution: besides by taking off the burthen from Trade, *Mony*, and Shiping, which are the stay and support of Commerce, will be again increased in England.

The result of the Committee of Inspection thereupon.

This proposal receiving the debate of *Parliament* was committed to the *Committe* of *Inspection*: and upon their consideration confined only to the Publique draft and sale of *Wine*, *Beer*, and *Tobaccho*, in publique Shops, and Houses: whereby I perceive they were not pleased to approve of any such Impositon to be laid upon private Families: Remembring (as I suppose) how distastfull it was in the year 1671. when Excise was paid by private Families, much after this manner. Neither do I thing it proper at present, considering how the State of affairs stand in England, to take off the Duty of Custome and Excise from a few *Marchants* that sell it again for ptofit, and place it so generall upon all private Families, now not sensible of paying any thing; though in truth I hartily wish it gone from all, except from such goods as in pollicy ought to pay a greater duty then ordinary, for incouragement and setting a ballance to Trade. But for taking away the troble occasioned to *Marchants* by the ill method or manner of Collecting it, which is so great a Charge to the Publique; that I think it most necessary to be forth-with done; which will be a most acceptable service and favour to *Marchants*. And for that I find it so rationally answered in a paper put in before the said Committee by *Mr. Cradock* (whose report also touching this subject, lies before them) I think it propper to commit the heads thereof, also to publique view.

Its therein confessed, that the taking away of all Custome, and Excise, lying for the most part upon For-

rain

rain goods, will increaſe a Forrain Trade, and make the Importation and Conſumption of *England* to be the greater! But mony and a great part of the Engliſh manufactures will by that means fall and decreaſe; for that by laying a duty upon ſuch Forrain manufactures whereof the like are made in England, and the continueing of it upon Coals, Lead, and Tynn, not to be had elſe-where but in England, doth not only bring Forrain Nations to contribute to our Revennue, but ſupports our Native Induſtry, which otherwiſe would be under ſould and diſcouraged: and if not by that means ballanced and ſupported with ſome more proper law made to prevent the Exportation of Wools, and Fullers-earth, whereby the Native Commodities of England exported may be made equivolent in valhue to purchaſe the Commodities Imported, and Conſumed: It muſt neceſſarily follow that Plate muſt go to ſupply it, as it hath done for ſome years paſt. Moreover it were moſt Imprudent for this Common-wealth, not to have regard to the Incouragement of Trade with Friends, and Alyes, and with that Country which vends moſt of our ſuperfluities, and ſupplies our defects: and otherwiſe to diſcourage that Trade which hinders our manufacturies at home, or proves otherwiſe prejudicial to our Plantations abroad; which will never be well inſpected without a Committee of Trade. Beſides, the method in Collecting the Cuſtome and Exciſe, may be ſo amended that by taking away the ſuperfluous number of Officers, and preventing the frauds of ſome *Marchants* that by ſaving their own duties are inabled to under-ſell their Neighbours, to the great prejudice of Trade, that the revenue may be brought in by a more proper way for incouragement of Trade, and

Mr. Cradocks anſwer to Mr. Hawkins his Propoſals.

eaſe of ſo great a charge to the Nation.

Which if once taken into Conſideration, *M. Hawkins* his method would be found aſmuch ſhort in property, as his Calculation of ſo many Millions is too large in quantity: for allowing the 9725. Pariſhes in England to have 160. Families, in each Pariſh, at 6 Perſons in a Family; the whole number of Perſons makes 9336000. which being reaſonably proportioned according to the rates ſet upon private Families, will not amount to the part of Two Millions, the ſum eſtimated; and to expect from *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, above $\frac{1}{2}$ aſmuch, they both paying in Cuſtome and Exciſe, not the $\frac{1}{8}$ part, nor in *Contribution* more then the $\frac{1}{3}$ part, were as unequall as impoſſible in thoſe parts to be Collected.

Alſo in the Calculation of the Publique ſale of Wine, and Beer, the miſtake cannot be leſs: for if the late Farmers by ſo much complained of Extortion, could not make their Rents contracted for their reſpective-Farms of Beer and Ale in England, which together with the whole receipts of Cuſtome and Exciſe upon Wines in the three Nations (which paies as much as it firſt Coſt,) amounts unto in all but 420000*lb per Annum*; How can *Mr. Hawkins* expect to raiſe a Million upon the ſame, And admitting the Vintner may be compounded with at a Rate conſiderable; the *Marchant* being freed from paying Cuſtome and Exciſe may drink Wine in his own houſe at half the Tavern price; As other private Families may alſo, that buy it from *Marchants*; which will not eaſily be prevented: ſo that the Vintner and that revennue will infallibly be ruined.

And for *Tobaccho Mr. Cradock* agrees with *Mr. Hawkins*, that the receipt will be uncertain till ſetled and approves of the conceipt to be good, though not

for

for the end Intended; for that the laying such an Imposition thereupon will peradventure cause many Gentleman and others to leave it for Fancie, as they took it: and the Ladies of England that now take it too publique to do it more private, not to the dishonour of their Sex and Country.

I have the rather been large upon this Proposal, finding it took up so long Debate before this *Parliament* and *Committee* of *Inspection*, and was taking with many of them. For I confess if so great a Revennue could be made out, and the People be brought to pay it willingly, such a method may be drawn from *Mr. Hawkins* his proposals as may be good for advance of Trade. But what the *Committee* of *Inspection* hath done in designing *Wines* and *Tobacchoes* to pay by Lycence, I may not civilly contradict: yet am bold to Query; Whether that duty will be as properly collected from many hands, so dispersed throughout the Nations, as from the Few Imports thereof? And if it be by any alledged that it will much advance the revennue (which I fear will not prove so,) Whether it may not also be called hard measure when the Sellers thereof are compelled to pay such a duty, or leave off Trading in those Commodities, for which they have no warrant to rate the same in the *Wines*, and *Tobacchoes*, to be sold by any method or prescription, other then every mans fancie: it being otherwise (at present) in the Brewers Trade, who makes his Drink so much the smaller, according to an exact proportion of so much the Barrel as is laid thereupon?

Query whether it be best for Wine and Tobacco to pay by Lycence?

But for Beer, Ale &c. in Publique houses, it will be undoubtedly the propereſt way of Collecting it by Lycence, as *Mr Hawkins* hath designed, whereby the

Beer and Ale, will be best collected by Lycense.

Common-

Commonwealth will be excused of 20000*lb per Annum*, now paid in Sallaries to Officers, besides brybes, and the trouble of attendance upon Offices, to make weekly entries, &c. And the 10*sh.* yearly paid for every Lycence to the *Justices of Peace*, their Clarks by the persons that sell Drink in Lycensed houses, will serve to pay half the rent of many of the poorer sort. But for that I find it most plainly set down in the report made by *Mr Cradock*, part in Print (but never published,) and part written, I have inserted it in the latter part of my Book, *Verbatim*; and also taken from thence the cheifest part of my Method, (touching Custome, and Forrain Excise, with the increase of Shiping,) the rather for that I find his method so well approved by many Members of *Parliament*, *Collonel Harvy* especially, whose experience in those affaires, I render inferiour to none; I shall therefore proceed as follows.

Touching a method presented in, by Mr Cradock, to the Parliament.

That the Book of rates for Customs may be referred to some fit Person experienced in Trade, to be rectified; and all Goods and Marchandize rated therein according to the true worth and vallue now Currant.

Of Customes and Books of Rates.

That where regard shall be had to Impose a greater or smaler duty to be paid upon any Commodity, either for advance to the revenue, the preservation of our own Trade, or to discourage or invite others to Trade with us, in general or particular Commodities; it may be done by imposing more or less to be paid in the pound, according to such Book of Rates, and not by puting a differing price upon Goods of the same specie and vallue; as is improperly done in the Book of Rates now in being, and cannot be properly corrected in any part, without a new Impression of the whole.

That the duty may be paid upon all Goods alike, by

all

all Persons, the difference to be only upon Commodities Imported or Exported in Forrain Bottoms; (that is to say) such Ship or Vessel not built in England, or Englisth Teritories, or not in the possession of Englisth Owners, and whereof the Master and ¾ of the Marriners are not Natural born Subjects of England: That such goodsand no other shall pay a greater duty in the nature of Forrain Custome, which will be of greater advantage to the State, be more agreeable with the goverment of a Common-wealth, and prove the best expedient for increase of Shipping, and incouragment of *Navigation*. *Forrain Ships only to pay Forrain duties.*

That *London*, *Bristol*, *Plimouth*, *Dover*, *Portsmouth*, *Hull* and *Yarmouth* may be made free Ports for Marchants to Import, Land, and House all dry goods in the States Ware-Houses, without paying any duty, more then a reasonable rate for Ware-House room: and that such goods, with all other Forrain goods whatsoever, may be at pleasure exported in such Englisth Ships as aforesaid with all Custome and Excise paid, to be returned; and in Forrain bottoms with half subsidy returned, as at present: whereby goods may find a Market in Forrain parts to some advadtage. The State hereby cannot hazzard more then 19000*lb per Annum* now received for half subsidy, which I am confident will return with great advance, when that Clog of Trade is Taken away, which only prevents goods here to be Imported: for Exportation, as in *Holland*, and *Legorn*, where most goods consumed or sent by landcarriage up into the Country pays a greater Excise then in England: besides Englisth Shipping will be Imployed in Exportation of great quantities of Forrain goods, yearly, that will then be laid on shoar by *Swedes*, *Danes*, *Hamburgers*, *Of making free Ports in England.*

Hamburgars, and other of the *East-Land Frozen Countries*; whose Shiping comming home but little to late, are inforced to remain in our Harbours for safety most part of the Winter; during which time they might make another Voyage to the *South-West parts*, and return again Laden: so that excepting what is done in favour to English Shiping, which cannot safely be taken away, England will be as free as *Holland*, or any Port in *Europe*.

England as free as Holland, &c.

That Timber may be Prohibited to be Exported, and care taken for its preservation: For the *Hollander* (though buying his Timber from us, and other Forrain parts) makes Shiping his great manufacture; whilest the English having it more plentifull both in *England*, *Ireland*, and *New-England*, instead of building one, imprudently buy four Ships from them, which will be prevented by putting this difference between English and Forrain bottoms, and will be so great an Incouragement for building here, that in few years Shiping may become as great a manufacture in England, to her support against Forrain Enemies, and encrease both of Trade and the Revennue.

For building of Shiping in England.

That to the end all Forrainers may be prevented of entring Ships for English, whose Proprietors, and building are not really such, all Shiping now belonging to the respective Ports and Harbours of England may be ordered forth-with to be registred, and a duty of 40*sh. per Tunn* laid upon all that shall be bought for the Future, from Forrain Nations, to be regestred also in like manner; and oath being made by the owners, or the major part of them, before the Commissioners or Collectors of the Custome house appointed for the Port; of each Ship really and truly appertaining to

English

Engliſh proprietors, Certifficate thereof ſhall be given, under their hands and ſeal of Office; which with the uſuall oath at preſent made by Maſters upon entry in Cuſtome houſe, may be a ſufficient teſtimony in any Port of England; and all other Ships be deemed as Forrain, and the duty be Collected for all goods Imported or Exported therein accordingly.

That to prevent the Exportation of *Wools*, and *Fullers-Earth*, it may be made Fellony for any perſon proved to be ayding, conſenting to, or aſſiſting in the Shiping or putting the ſame on board any Forrain Ship, or Veſſell, or Engliſh Ship of War, (or ſome of them by report uſing to carry it for *Holland*, being never viſited the Cuſtom-houſe Officers,) and that the Captain, Maſter, and Mariners thereof (if within ſeven years after taken in England,) may be alſo adjudged as Fellons: But if Shiped in other Engliſh bottoms, the Goods, and Ship, only to be forfeited: for that few Maſters (if any at all) offend in that kind without approbation of their owners, who are too often conſenting to, and Imployers of Maſters and their Sea-men upon that account: ſo that by taking away the penalty from Maſters and Mariners, (at preſent lying ſo hard that I conceive it duls the edge of the Law) their Teſtimony, which is all that can be had, will not only be preſerved, but Juſtice be more freely Executed. And if Wools were Prohibited to be water born, within the *Dominions* of *England*, and *Scotland*, upon any pretence whatſoever, (except to be brought from an Iſland to the Main) and alſo not to be put in any Houſe, Barn, or other place nearer the Sea or any Navigable River then the owners dwelling-Houſe, upon pain of Confiſcation, with a greater fine, according to the nature of the Offence, I am confi-

To prevent the Exportation of Wools and Fullers-Earth.

dent it would prevent much fraud practised; which is of very great Importance to England, and most worthy of remedy.

Commissioners of Customes to have more power.

That upon seizing any Ship or other goods: whatsoever upon pretence of breach of any law, or for non-payment of Duty, the Commissioners of the Customes in *London* may be Impowred to call any person before them, and to take examinations upon oath touching the same; and if they see cause to discharge such seizure; (referring only such as they find in their judgement duly seized into the *Exchequer*,) and that the difficult proofe now lying upon the seizor (which I doubt introduces much perjury) may be put upon the proprietor: who if innocent of Fraud intended, is the best able to clear his goods without further expence or delay by sute in the *Exchequer*: besides much fraud in saving Customes, will by this means be prevented: Provided it may not be construed to extend any power to Officers of the Customes for seizing other goods but such as by very probable or apparent demonstration are in truth seizable, whereof the Commissiones of the Customes may take care for preservation of Trade, and punishing offenders according to their demerrits.

The proofe to ly upon the owners of goods seizen.

This being the substance of what I apprehend is deficient touching the premises, and necessary to be communicated to the *Parliament*, to whom I have presumed to Dedicate these my unworthy lines. Conceiving it within the power of the Commissioners of Customes to rectify other things amiss in the method whereof more is spoken in Mr *Cradocks* report, unto which I refer my self and others, desirous of the particulars, and proceed to the method for Excise.

That the same Book of Rates to be made for Customes,

ſtomes, may alſo ſtand and be for Exciſe; the difference of paying more or leſs then Cuſtome to be rated ſo much more or leſs in the pound, in like manner as aforeſaid: which will prove a kind of check to each Office, by the other, and be the beſt Informant to the general Surveyours that ſhall be appointed over both. *Method for Exciſe.*

That the Exciſe and Cuſtomes being dependent one upon the other, may be reduced into one Intire Office, (the receipts only to be kept diſtinct,) and managed by the ſame Commiſſioners and Officers; which will be very much to the eaſe and accommodation of *Marchants* in their diſpatches, and take off the trouble from Shop-keepers and others of fetching tickets, (which is the cheef cauſe of ſuch complaint againſt the duty. *Exciſe to be brought to the Cuſtome-houſe.*

That in order thereunto, inſtead of the firſt buyer the *Marchant* may be made lyable to pay the Exciſe; who doth the ſame voluntary already, in all the out parts, and many alſo in *London* ſelling their goods accordingly. *Marchants to pay Exciſe.*

That in lew of the *Marchants* ſtanding lyable to pay Exciſe, ſix moneths time may be given him to pay for the like quantity he entred in-wards, and paid Cuſtomes, regard being had to ſuch Commodities as are not ſold or exported within the ſaid term, which may have three moneths time more, but no longer. Alſo that a certain allowance may be computed for *Leakage* of Wines, and other liquid or waſting Commodities, at ſo much *per Cent*, and no other allowance to be made upon any pretence whatſoever. *Time to be given for payment.*

That by making that a ſtanding Law, which is now ſo differently practiſed, and falls out often as Controveries between the *Marchant* and firſt buyer, who although by the Law in being) is lyable to pay the duty, *Marchants will have warrant to ſell the duty with his goods.*

ty, yet the *Marchant* alſo ſtands obliged to ſee it done, and diſcharged upon his account (which trouble is in ſmal parcels of goods ſold a greater inconvenience then the payment of the duty) many ſutes will be thereby prevented, and the *Marchant* have more poſſitive warrant to demand for and ſell both the Cuſtome and Exciſe with his goods.

Accounts how to be kept. That all Collectors and Receivers of Cuſtomes their Journal or day Book, of receipts may ſerve to charge the *Merchant* for Exciſe, whoſe Firm may alſo ſerve for Bill of Entry at Cuſtome-Houſe, and from thence be transferred to the Leagar, (which is all the trouble extraordinary,) and both accounts are compleated: the trouble in this and all things elſe, will be to both *Marchant* and *Officer* ſhortned, the accounts upon occaſion readier to be compared and examined, and many miſtakes and other inconveniences that now happen between both, be prevented.

5 per Cent to be allowed. That the *5 per Cent* now allowed upon all Goods entred in Cuſtome-Houſe may be taken off, and in lew thereof *5 per Cent* may be allowed the *Marchant* in Monies, upon payment of his Exciſe: Provided it be paid in at the day appointed, as aforeſaid: otherwiſe the *Marchant* ſhall not claim any benefit thereof: whereby Arrears will be prevented, by which the State hath loſt many hundred thouſand pounds.

The Officers of Exciſe and Cuſtomes help to cheat the State. That the Officers of Cuſtomes and Exciſe, are ſo far from correſponding one with the other, or the one to queſtion that which might prevent a fraud to the other Office, (if it bring no profit to himſelf, as ſervants of one Maſter ſhould do,) that they are rather helpfull to cheat the State againſt each others Office, as though ſervants of two different Intereſts; which ſhews how unneceſſar

unneceſſary and Inconſiſtant one of them ſtands with the Publique good.

That ſeven Commiſſioners may be appointed at the Cuſtome-Houſe to mannage both duties; whether the Exciſe may be removed in all Ports: and that any three of the ſaid Commiſſioners may be a *Corum;* ſo that they may divide into two Committees upon occaſion: and that 8 hours in the Day may be allowed for all men to have their buſineſs done, either in Cuſtome or Exciſe, (that is to ſay, from 8 in the morning till 12 a Clock, and from 2 till 6 in the afternoon.) And that all the Exciſe Officers may be diſcharged, excepting ſome few Accountants, and Surveyours, which will be inconſiderable in reſpect of the preſent number which accord to this Method will be uſeleſs. *The number of Commiſſioners.*

That the prejudice to the State for want of reducing the Exciſe ſooner to a more certain method is evident, in that the ſaid Duties of Exciſe, ſet on Wines and many other Commodities is double as much (and in no particular leſs then the duty of Cuſtomes; yet as to the ſame Commodities, it ever came ſhort in the receipts of what the Cuſtomes yeeldeth to the Revenue, as may appear by the account following, taken out of Mr *Cradocks* report: which I have examined by the Auditors Books, and do think it worthy to be hear Communicated. *Exciſe makes leſs then Cuſtome.*

Mr Cradocks account.

The totall receipts of the Cuſtomes of England are yearly 390000l. per Annum, *as it amounted unto, for the laſt four years, taking them together; from which I ſubſtract* 95000l. per Annum, *received for Native goods Exported, and* 19000l. per Annum, *for half ſubſidy of Forrain goods again Exported, and the real receipts of Forrain goods conſumed in England is yearly.* 276000l.

That

That the said Forrain goods consumed ought to pay Excise: which upon Wines, Drugs, and many other Commodities is double as much as the duty of Customes and upon all other Commodities 5 per Cent, more: so that the Excise may be reasonably computed at least ⅓ part more then Custome, which then amounteth to 345000l. per Annum, from which is deducted for Leakage of Wines, and other Liquid Commodities after Housing 8000l. per Annum, which is all that can be pretended, and the real receipt of Excise Yearly ought to be.	337000l.
For the Excise of Forrain goods, for the last four years past by a Computed medium for one year have been received but.	175000l.
So there appears to be lost in the Collecting it (by the present method) of what it ought to make according to the entries in Custome-House, Yearly.	162000l.
Moreover there may be preserved by bringing the Excise under the Custome-House management, and taking away the superfluous number of Officers and other ſident charges, Yearly.	030000l.
Also by puting the Excise of Beer, and Ale, into the method following, to be paid by Lycence in the several Counties of England (London excepted) *it may be Collected for 6d in the pound better then for the 2ſh at present allowed the Sub-commissioners; and thereby will be also preserved Yearly.*	018000l.
So the demunition of the Revenue by the superfluous charge of Excise Officers and apparant losse (as I conceive by the improper method) in collecting it is Yearly 210000 pounds. (allowing the Custome receipts the same, which by a better method might be also very much improved) I say.	210000l.

Excise Improved by Major Manton.

I presume some that are acquainted with the receipts of the Excise may alledge that a greater sum then 175000*l*, was received for Forrain Goods the last Year,

Years which is confeſſed; but Computing the laſt four Years (which is the propereſt way to find its reall income) and it will be found not to exceed the ſaid ſum: yet I confeſs a very great Improvement was the laſt year made by regulating their Method, in keeping Marchants accounts, which was done by *Major Manton* one of the late Commiſſioners, whoſe ingenuity duly obſerves this remembrance.

Cuſtome falen ſince 1655.

I confeſs my own opinion could not credit this account, with other particulars in Mr *Cradocks* report, (as the revenue of Cuſtomes to be decreaſed 80000 *l. per Annum*, ſince the Year 1655. finding the totall receipts as great as formerly) untill I was convinced of its reallity by a further inſpection into the Book of Rates, as I have likewiſe made into the method of Exciſe, which I find contrived as if purpoſely deſigned to ruine Trade; by compelling every perſon buying or ſelling any Goods in the ſtrickneſs of the Law to fetch a Ticket before it be delivered (though living at never ſo remote a diſtance from the Exciſe Office) or elſe muſt ſubmit his Goods and himſelf and Trade to be interupted by every (of the too many) Exciſe Officers, which is not all; for he that deſires to walk according to their Exciſe rule, is ſo much enſlaved by the long and tedious attendance upon Offices, that, beſides his own trouble and hinderance in his Trade, requires a Servants labour extraordinary to all of any conſiderable dealings. And I am bold to affirm that the very Officers of Exciſe are as chargable to the *Commonwealth*, as a conſiderable Army. Beſides, the preſent method refers ſo much to the Oaths of all Trades and their ſervants that he is become the moſt expert Marchant that ſweares with the moſt handſome reſervations,

Trouble to Marchants by the ill method and other inconveniences.

and knows beſt how to equivocate: which cuſtome of ſinning hath ſo taken away the Conſcience of it, that by ſuch careleſs ſwearing is introduced moſt wilfull perjury; to the great diſhonour of God the ſcandal of our religion, and infamy of this Nation: ſo that if not ſpeedily ſtopped, it will eat out the very life of Grace, and Spirit of Fidelity from amongſt us: whereby that ſacred bond of an Oath (obſerved by the very *Turks*, and *Heathens*, as the moſt binding tye on Earth, and ſhould be alſo a Chriſtians chief ſecurity) will expoſe the Lives and Eſtates of every honeſt tender Conſcience to the cruelty and trechery of ſuch profain perſons.

This written in hopes to cauſe Exciſe to be taken down, &c

Truly, the hopes I have that this will be rectified have induce me to beſtow this labour, in expectation, that what advance ſhall be made to the revenue will be applyed to extemate the burthen of Trade: ſo that Cloathing and other Engliſh manufactures, with the Oyls and other materials, Imported to be Imployed thereupon, will be exempted from paying the leaſt duty: whereby we may recall that Staple from *Holland*, and prevent thoſe ingenious Artiſts from under ſelling us.

The nature of Collecting Exciſe in Spain.

I find alſo in Mr *Cradocks* report a ſecond method touching Exciſe, which I remember to have ſeen practiſed in *Malaga*, and as I ſuppoſe is in uſe in all other parts of *Spain*, where in truth Exciſe is greater then in England, but Collected (in my apprehenſion) by a much properer way then with us here; for there only two or three Officers with a Book (wherein the Marchant ſtands charged, goes to their Houſes once in 5. or 6. moneths, and taking account of all Goods remaining upon the Marchants hands give him another diſtinct charge, which being compared with his old account,

account, they compute for all Goods found gone or ſold, for which the Marchant gives his bill to pay accordingly at a moneth after: ſo that likewiſe by this method the Marchant is made pay Exciſe for aſmuch as he entred in the Cuſtome-Houſe: and may deliver his Goods at pleaſure, without ticket or trouble of Officers; and Oaths are not at all required. But I muſt return to the method of Beer, and Ale, which I conceive will be Collected moſt proper, and at leaſt charge by Lycenſes, as aforeſaid, and the Exciſe now rendred ſo Compulſive be accounted a more voluntary duty.

Method touching Beer and Ale.

That in referrence thereunto, the former Laws Prohibiting all Perſons to ſell Beer and other Drinks without Lycenſe, may be revived, and enjoyned to be duly executed; and that Lycenſes may be granted only to ſuch as the Juſtices of Peace in each County ſhall think fit and apoint at a yearly rate: unto whoſe aſſiſtance may be added a Commiſſioner, without whom nothing ſhall be tranſacted: who with a ſervant or two at moſt may be ſufficient to mannage any indifferent County according to this method, at little charge in reſpect of of what is now therein expended.

How all men may be juſtly rated.

That the unequallity in the Trades and draughts of ſeveral perſons appearing the greateſt obſticle in this deſigne, I conceive may be rectified by the ſaid Commiſſioner, who making it his whole buſineſs, may inform himſelf by the former receipts, or by the People themſelves, that are apt enough to inform him alſo what they paid the laſt Farmers; which together with the aſſiſtance of the ſaid Juſtices may enable them to put an equal eſtimate upon all Lycenſes, according to to the quallity and trade of the Perſons deſiring them; who will not be unwilling to pay down a quarters rent,

and give Bond yearly to be renewed, for the remainder.

Drink sold in Fairs to pay Excise.

That no Lycense granted to any Person may extend further then for Drink sold and spent in his dwelling House: So that the Drink sold at Publique Faires, may not be exempted from paying Excise, but may be Collected at so much the Barrel, by the said Commissioner and his servants, which will be of some use, if only to pay them their yearly Sallaries.

Power to punish offenders.

That the said Justices or any one of them, together with the said Commissioner may have power to call Constables and other Officers to their assistance in their several districts; and also to lay a Fine or other lawfull punishment upon offenders (that sell drink without Lycense, according to ther demerits: to be paid one Moyety to the State, and the other to the poor of the Parrish where the offence is committed: by which means the People will be made to observe the plain Laws by them understood, and be freed from that of Excise, often intrapping them, and so mystical to vulgar apprehensions.

Brewers out of London to be discharge of Excise, except for small Beer.

That all common Brewers not selling within *London*, and lines of *Communication*, by means thereof may be dis-obliged from paying Excise for all strong Beer, or Ale; and a penalty be imposed on such as shall sell to persons not Lycensed that usually are known to tapp out or retayle the same: and that in consideration of the six pence *per* Barrel laid on smaller Beer, the Brewer that will not compound may be made lyable to such Imposition quarterly to be paid as two of the said Justices and Commissioner shall reasonably calculate. Alwaies provided, that any Brewer finding himself Injured by such estimation and shall together with the testimony of another make proof thereof upon Oath before the said Justices, &c. that then due allowance may

That this way of management will not be so proper in *London*, and lines of *Communication*, where the Brewer serves all that is expended; and from whom the duty will be collected at the least charge; but as to the Country duty the case is much different, for their Excise being paid promiscuously by others as well as by Common Brewers, both must be kept to a survey, which if done to any purpose, the one fourth part of the receipts will not defray the charge: by which means both the former Commissioners and late Farmers have been enforced to compound with all in the Country at as good rates as they could: which in effect is the method here prescribed, dearly paid for, and brought from *Holland* to *England*, for expedition over the *Alps*.

Brewers of London to pay as at present.

To this may be added, that the revolutions and Interruptions of Goverments since the Death of the *Protector*, have been great Obstructions, to the receipts upon both Forrain and Inland duties, which are (as I conceive) augmented by giving the Custome and Excise but 2 or 3 moneths continuance, and is no small Intenation to Officers, (whose places seem the more contingent,) and others also to make Hay, whilest the Sun shines: but apprehending the reason, I shall say no more, but that when the Excise upon all Goods is reduced to a certain sum, and day of payment according to the methods aforesaid, it may then be revived from one moneth to another, (if thought fit) without prejudice to the receipts; when contrariwise if it remain subject to supposed changes, under the present method, the revenue will be exposed to ruine, and many Marchants also receive prejudice by the advantage made by others that pay little (if any duty at all:) which is, and will be a great hindrance to Trade.

Obstructions in Goverment hinders the receipt.

And apprehending that the Exciſe laid upon Beer, Ale, Iron, Hops, with other Inland Commodities, (not uſually exported,) is the propereſt to be continued as long as the neceſſities of State require to be ſo ſupplyed, as being the leaſt burthen to Trade, and therefore in uſe, with the *Netherlands State*, whoſe revenues is chiefly ſupported thereby. I ſhall conclude with Mr *Cradock*, that if leſs were laid upon many particulars of Forrain Goods, more would be received into the revenue: and that by this regulating the Cuſtome and Exciſe, the foregoing Orders and Tickets, whereby the State hath been abuſed, and ſtill are with other frauds practiſed between the Marchant and firſt buyer will be prevented: the *Marchants* colour of being ſo much in arreares as he hath been (whereby the *Commonwealth* loſt five parts of ſix, at once of all the debts in the Nation) and no good way to this day found to make the Marchant truly accountable, will be alſo remedied, the Shop-keepers and others freed from the trouble of fetching Tickets, the revenue of Exciſe and Cuſtome be improved as may appear by the aforeſaid account two hundred and odd thouſand pounds *per Annum*: beſides by ſuch advance of Plate may forthwith yeeld profit to the State at leaſt five Millions; and by the Impoſition upon all wrought Plate half a Mullion at preſent, and 50000 *lb. per Annum* for time to come: which will diſcharge the Arrears due to the Army, and other Publique debts with a great overplus. Navigation in England will be alſo incouraged, Shiping and Mony increaſed, and the Exciſe Offices ſo *obnoxious* to the People be taken away, the *Common-wealth* eaſed and the revenue be more quietly mannaged to the content of all People, and Incouragement of Trade.

The benefit to the State and Common-wealth.

Poſt-ſcript.

Post-script.

TO the objections which ſome perhaps will make that theſe Particulars are of great waight, and therefore fit to be deferred till they may be more properly diſcourſed on, is anſwered: that what is ſaid touching Plate, may ſoon be determined, and a Revenue thereby brought in ſooner then by a monethly Aſſeſment, and with more ſatisfaction to the Nation: and that the method here laid down for Exciſe and Cuſtome doth abreviate the Circumſtances (that occaſion trouble) and ſuperfluities (that beget charge) and brings it into a narower compaſs, and the Revenue to a greater Certainty; which if referred to a Committee Experienced in Trade, might be compoſed within a fortnight, and would be a moſt acceptable ſervice done in England.

FINIS.

FINIS.